



3010 Grand Avenue
Waukegan, IL 60085-2399
Phone: (847) 377-8000
Fax: (847) 360-3656

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Contact: Leslie Piotrowski
(847) 377-8055
Marcia Stanek
(847) 377-8099

Health Department Recommends Ways to Keep Halloween Safe

As children go door to door in search of candy, the Lake County Health Department/Community Health Center is reminding adults to be thinking about safety this Halloween. Parents should be wary that injuries could occur. Simple preventative measures can help eliminate Halloween related injuries.

Safety Tips for Children:

- Look both ways before crossing the street. Walk on sidewalks
- Do not cut across lawns or go through backyards, parks and alleys.
- Do not hide behind cars. Do not cross the street between parked cars; go to a street corner.
- Never accept rides from strangers. Do not take treats from a person in a car.
- Use a flashlight when walking. Be sure it has fresh batteries.
- Wear light-colored costumes and put reflective strips on them. Be sure costumes are short enough so you will not trip.
- Use face paint instead of a mask or hood that covers your eyes.
- Stay away from lighted candles, matches and open fires.
- Trick-or-treat only at houses with porch lights on.
- Be careful around animals. Pets may be scared by the costumes or loud noises.
- Do not eat any treats until they are checked by an adult. Do not eat anything in an open package.

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Safety Tips for Adults:

- Check for a “flame resistant” label on costumes, masks, beards and wigs.
- Children should carry only soft, flexible swords or other props.
- Accompany trick-or-treaters under 12 years of age.
- Set a time for children to be home. Know the route they will take.
- Never let a child go trick-or-treating alone. Be sure at least two friends go together.
- To discourage children from munching on their candy, provide children with dinner or a light snack before going out. They will be less likely to snack on treats.
- Remove breakable items or obstacles such as ladders, tools and toys from your yard.
- Keep Jack-O-Lanterns and lighted candles away from areas where costumes or paper decorations might touch the flame.

Safety Tips for Motorists:

- Slow down in residential neighborhoods. Watch carefully for children who may not be paying attention to traffic. Watch for children in the street or on medians and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways slowly and carefully.
- When driving children around, make sure they exit and enter the car on the curbside, away from traffic.
- Do not wear a Halloween mask while driving.

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